

T

echnical

A new contract (MSFOC) for operating the Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF) will be awarded on December 1, 2008. For more than 20 years, MAF has been operated by the External Tank prime contractor, Lockheed Martin. To transition MAF to a multi-tenant environment supporting Shuttle, Ares I Upper Stage, Ares V, and Orion, operations of the facility will be turned over to a separate contractor not associated with any of the planned tenants.

I

nformational

Sometimes those who are the most supportive of a change in the beginning become the most resistant as the transition progresses. These individuals move from “**uniformed optimism**” to “**informed pessimism**” and can be openly negative. The reality of every change is that we each gain some things and lose some things. The goal is to be “**hopefully realistic**” about the change and exhibit “informed optimism” and confidence that the change will move the organization to a better place.

P

ersonal

Mental Imagery/Visual Imagery - Along with expectations for a given situation a person will develop an accompanying mental picture and internal dialogue. This mental imagery can itself elicit emotional and physiologic responses. Negative mental imagery increases anxiety and stress reactions; whereas positive mental imagery minimizes the effects of life stressors and increases effective coping.